agricultural protectionism, and whether

o bail out failing firms. Signalling that he

cal frontline, he added: "I will be in those

Osborne's was one of a series of power-

ful speeches from MPs conscious of the

were being asked to make

historic significance of the decision they

He was preceded by the former Labour

leader Ed Miliband, who said he would

be voting for the bill at its second reading,

but warned the government: "History

will judge us not just on the decisions

we make on this bill tonight, but on the

a heavy responsibility, and we expect

them to exercise it on behalf of the whole

nation, not just the 52%. For that we

will hold them to account in the months

party's foreign affairs spokesman, said

May's trip to the White House last week

underlined the fact that losing EU mem-

bership was already forcing the UK to

strike up too close a relationship with the

US. "She goes headlong into the arms of

a United States president who is, at best,

unpredictable," he said. "This is going to

of the imbalance in the relationship."

get worse and more embarrassing because

A series of Labour backbenchers took

to their feet to explain, some in passion

voting against the triggering of article 50.

Rhondda and a former shadow leader of

the Commons, said he would be voting

against the bill - despite the fact that his

constituency voted leave - because he

believed in internationalism and tolerance. "All my life I have believed that the

best form of patriotism is international-

ism," he said. "I fear the turn this world

is taking towards narrow nationalism,

"Distrust of those who are different

He added: "I have not lost my faith. It

from us can all too often, although not

always, turn to hatred of foreigners. That

remains my deep conviction that leav-

ing the European Union, especially on

the terms that the government seem

to expect, will do untold damage to my

constituents, especially the poorest of

shadow early years minister last week.

Tulip Siddig, who resigned as a

told MPs she could not vote for the

bill because it would not be in

the interests of her constitu-

ents. "In Hampstead and

Kilburn, we do not wince

when we hear people speak

in a different language on

public transport. We do

not blame the very real

pressures on our health

system, on our criminal

ustice and on our hous-

ing by scapegoating

others, just because

they do not look like

us and because they do

protectionism and demagoguery.

way lies the trail to war."

Chris Bryant, the Labour MP for the

George Osborne

promised he would

be abandoning the

political frontline

e involved in coming

suggesting he will not

decisions beyond. The government have

Former chancellor says May's government has opted not to make the economy the priority, writes **Heather Stewart**

EU divorce will be bitter, Osborne warns MPs

George Osborne warned the public to expect a "bitter" divorce from the European Union as MPs debated the government's Brexit hill for a second day

Osborne has made relatively few interventions in the Commons since Theresa May removed him from the post of chancellor in July. But yesterday he was among scores of MPs who spoke about the risks

He said he would not vote against the bill, which will allow the government to begin the formal exit process, because ignoring the result of the referendum on EU membership could provoke "a deep constitutional crisis"

But he said that by deciding to put immigration control and an escape from the jurisdiction of the European court of justice at the top of its agenda, "the government has chosen - and I respect and years ahead." this decision - not to make the economy the priority'

During prime minister's questions earlier, May said she would publish a white paper on the government's negotiating plans today. Tabling a formal paper was a central demand of Conservative rebels, several of whom - including Nicky Morgan, the former education secretary - said they would now vote with the

However, Morgan said she believed Brexit had added to the risks in global politics. "I have to be honest: never in my adult life have I felt so concerned about the stability and state of the world in which we live. With the Brexit vote, we have added an extra layer of uncertainty

Osborne was a central figure in the remain campaign, and put the economic costs of Brexit at the heart of an ultimately unsuccessful effort to convince ate terms, why they would be disregardthe British public that leaving the EU was ing their leader's three-line whip and not worth the risk.

He stressed that the only question on the ballot paper in the referendum had been whether to leave the EU, and that tough battles would be fought in the Commons in the years ahead over a series of other issues - free trade, immigration,

Fox shrugs off NHS fears

Fears of an American takeover of the NHS are an urban myth "on a par with alligators in sewers", Liam Fox has said as he revealed that US trade talks

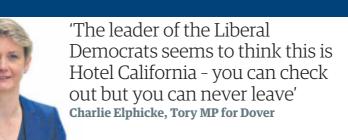
would begin within days. Fox, the international trade secretary, hopes to lead a ministerial-level delegation as soon as his counterparts in Trump's administration are confirmed The government was forced to rule out opening up the NHS to competition from US healthcare providers amid growing concern that pressure to reduce "non-tariff barriers" could jeopardise British regulatory autonomy

"It's not been part of our approach to go into these agreements and sacrifice the right for government to regulate public services," Fox said. Pressed by the Labour MP Shabana Mahmood to guarantee the NHS would remain "off limits", Fox added: "I can say it would be not be happening on my watch." Dan Roberts

'If you are so confident that what you are planning is what people voted for, you must give them a vote on the final deal.' Tim Farron, Lib Dem leader

'I think the challenge we will face over the next few years in many European countries is how we defend ... democratic values.' **Yvette Cooper, Labour MP for** Pontefract and Castleford

The Guardian | Thursday 2 February 2017



The Guardian | Thursday 2 February 2017

'I can walk down the streets of Edinburgh South and look my constituents in the eye'

Ian Murray, Labour's only MP

in Scotland



Exit negotiations Former ambassador to EU predicts stormy times ahead

Patrick Wintour

The UK's former ambassador to the EU has told MPs the Brexit talks will inevitably descend into "name-calling" and "fistfighting" before any agreement can be found, adding that there will be serious consequences for the UK economy if

the negotiations are mishandled. Sir Ivan Rogers, who unexpectedly esigned from the post last month, challenged the centrepiece of Theresa Mav's withdrawal strategy by saying the EU had no appetite to give the UK an interim free trade deal. He warned that if UK negotiators walk out of Brexit talks without an agreement on future relations with the EII then British business would lose preferential access to the European single market for several years.

Insisting he was not seeking to be spine-chilling", Rogers urged the governnent to make "a stone-cold sober analysis" of the consequences of leaving the EU without a deal, which would mean falling back on terms set by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). He also revealed that the EU believes that Brexit has blown a hole in its budget, and will demand as much as €60bn to fill the hole left by the UK's departure

Rogers resigned in January after tellng Theresa May that Brussels diplomats thought it might take 10 years to reach a deal. Yesterday he said he had resigned because he felt the head of the UK negotiating team in Brussels needed to see through the "humongous negotiations" right to the end, not because he was fundamentally opposed to the government's ree trade objectives.

The lengthy evidence session to the European scrutiny select committee was the first time Rogers has spoken publicly since resigning, and provided a rare nsight into Whitehall's Brexit negotiation thinking.

Rogers indicated that the talks were so vast in scope, cutting into every aspect of UK economic life, that there was no way a deal could be reached within the two-year timeframe required by article 50. The two parties would, he said, have to look for an

nterim deal. He said he did not think the EU would concede the UK an interim bespoke deal, and suggested another option would be for the UK to join the existing European Economic Area as a Brexit antechamber before a final deal was negotiated.

Warning that the EU believed it was olding the best cards, Rogers said: "The view of many will be that the implications for the UK of walking away without any deal on the economic side and without any preferential arrangement and walking into a WTO-only world are, from their perspective - which may be a misreading of us - so unpalatable that we won't do it

a WTO-deal-only world, and then you have to understand the implications of the WTO in micro-detail."

He said the EU request for an exit fee of €40bn-€60bn was genuine, and although each of the 27 states would have its own

everyone was going to be as lucky as



Ivan Rogers: 'Whitehall has a hell of a lot to do on Brexit, and at speed'

interests and priorities, "one thing they can all agree on is that we are the rogues who have ceased to pay our dues".

If no agreement is reached on the exi fee, the EU will probably go to the European Court of Justice to seek redress, he said. But the UK is leaving the EU at least partly to extricate itself from ECJ rulings, and a dispute is likely about the appropri ate legal arbitrator.

Rogers said he understood the public impatience to leave the EU quickly, but the UK had to look at "the real-world consequences" of leaving without a deal. "It will involve disentangling yourself from 43 years when EU law has got into every nook and cranny of UK social and economic life.

"You have to work through every area what does the default to the WTO option entail, and where does it take you? At the point where we cease to be a member state access to the single market in certain areas automatically lapses unless a replacement agreement has been drawn up.'

He said he did not believe, for instance that the EU would allow financial passporting for the City of London to operate in the EU, and said the less ambitiou goal of agreeing equivalence - a means of ensuring privileged access to the single market for UK services - was problematic. Equivalence was "quite capricious, political and incomplete. It can be with drawn at relatively short notice". Tha represented "a huge business problem"

for financial institutions, Rogers said. The goal of the talks must be to persuade the 27 "not to cut their own noses off. We are going to have to persuade them that it is in their interest to do an unprec edented deal with us in terms of marked

Rogers said Whitehall was already overwhelmed by the scale of the problem: "Whitehall has a hell of a lot to do on Brexit, and at speed. People are being run off their feet.

UK officials in Brussels were trying to 'If you walk away, you have to be clear deal with day-to-day dossiers, he said, but that we will be living for several years in not receiving instructions from Whitehall. Such officials told him: "I am not clear

what I am saving or what our position is. Rogers said: "That is not good enough We have to walk and chew gum at the same time. We have to deal with the dayto-day dossiers."

Jenny Chapman and David Jones

The 114 MPs who voted

Wallington); Nick Clegg Carmichael (Orknev and Shetland); Sarah Olney (Richmond Park); Joh Pugh (Southport); Mark Williams (Ceredigion); Tin Farron (Westmorland and

Chris Law (Dundee West); John McNally (Falkirk); South): Stuart McDonald Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch Fast Angus Brendan MacNeil (Na Hosie (Dundee East); George Calum Kerr (Berwickshire Roxburgh and Selkirk); Margaret Ferrier (Rutherglei and Hamilton West); Stepher Grady (Glasgow North); Peter Badenoch and Strathspey) Roger Mullin (Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath): Gavir Newlands (Paisley and

John Nicolson (East Kirsten Oswald (East Renfrewshire): Steve Edinburgh East); Aliso (Glasgow North West);

Lochaber); Kirsty Blackmar Boswell (Coatbridge, Chrysto Heidi Alexander (Lewisham East); Rushanara Ali (Bethnal Green and Bow); Graham Allen (Nottingham North): Luciana Berger (Labour Co-or Liverpool, Wavertree); Ben (Ochil and South Perthshire) Bradshaw (Exeter); Kevir Angela Crawley (Lanark and Brennan (Cardiff West); Rupa Huq (Ealing Central Chapman (Dunfermline and and Acton): Lvn Brown West Fife); Joanna Cherry (West Ham); Chris Bryant

(Edinburgh South West); (Rhondda); Ms Karen Buck Lisa Cameron (East Kilbride Butler (Brent Central); Strathaven and Lesmahagow and Isleworth). Ann Clwyd (Cynon Valley); Ann Coffe (Stockport); Neil Coyle Bermondsey and Old Southwark); Ian Murray (Edinburgh South); Thang Mary Creagh (Wakefield): Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op

Cardiff South and Penarth) Jim Dowd (Lewisham West and Penge); Maria Eagle (Garston and Halewood): Louise Ellman (Labour Co-op Liverpool, Riverside) Paul Farrelly (Newcastle-South): Lilian Greenwood Norwood): Meg Hillier Labour Co-op Hackney Tottenham); Rachael

Tulip Siddia (Hampstead and mersmith); Jeff Smith (Manchester, Withington); Owen Smith Pontypridd); Jo Stevens imms (East Ham): Catherine West (Hornsey and Wood (Southampton, Test); Daniel Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Plaid Cymru (2)

Tyne North); Madeleine Moon

Bridgend): Stephen Pound

(Ealing North); Virendra

Independents (3) Natalie McGarry (Glasgo East): Lady Hermon (North

(Edinburgh West)

Mark Durkan (Foyle): Margaret Ritchie (South Down): Alasdair McDonnell

John Crace's sketch Remainers have the best tunes as MPs sing EU swan songs

triumphalism of the previous day's many Rule Britannia contributions still ringing in the ears, the house was in a more chilled mood for the second day of the article 50 debate Time for some Mellow Magic FM. Those old hits you couldn't stand at the time but now you haven't heard them for a while, suddenly begin to feel like old classics First on the dad-dancing

The former Labour leader

seems to have grown in

stature since he returned

turntable was Ed Miliband.

retain its internationalist outlook. Next on "Brexit must not equal Trump," he said. A few Tories looked a bit uncomfortable about this. It's only just begun to dawn air was on them that Donald Trump might not be the best horse to back for a bright Osborne. new future. pro bono. Next to get air play was George Osborne. These days, the former Call it a chancellor of the exchequer normally rousers about £75,000 per speech, charity but today he was prepared to do a bit

to the backbenches, partly because we

called Colin but mainly because absence

makes the heart grow fonder. Hard to

believe, but he already belongs to an

era when politics did seem to be, if not

kinder and gentler, then a lot cuddlier.

After stating he didn't really believe

the referendum reflected the true will of

the people, Miliband went on to say that

he would be respecting the will of the

people by voting with the government.

That's the kind of clear-thinking confu-

He was on much stronger ground

when making the case for Britain to

sion we've loved and lost.

no longer have to listen to conference

speeches about how he met a bloke

of pro bono. Call it a charity gig. Brexit glg may have been a disaster for his political career but it's done wonders for his bank balance. But George is a decent rinda guy and he recognised that not

ment's priority," he said. "Immigration is. Nor will the EU prioritise the economy in its negotiations with us." But hey, he was going to vote for the bill anyway because if people wanted to be poorer, it was no skin off his nose. If Ed and George were the two soft

rock opening numbers, Alex Salmond was a six-minute power hallad. He started loud and got louder. There was no old war he wasn't prepared to fight again. The referendum had been a bad joke, the article 50 vote was a bad joke, the Scots had been shafted and no one was going to take him alive. The guitar solo was still in full flight when the speaker hit the fade button to allow an Yvette Cooper cover version of Nothing Compares to EU to hit the airwaves.

Thereafter the debate became rather more middle of the road. Verbal wallpaper to fill the time before the vote. Heaviest of hearts/ gravest of misgivings/ Britain never, never will be slaves

delete where applicable. Only those Labour remainers, such as Stella Creasy, Chris Bryant and Mary Creagh, who were planning to ignore their party line managed to inject some real passion. It's so much easier to sound sincere when you actually believe in what you're saying.

were no less prosaic in summing up for him. "The economy is not the governboth sides. Perhaps they felt they had to live down to much of what had gone before. Jones even managed to lose his place and announce that Britain would be leaving the UK. Now that would It was hard to believe this had all

been a preamble to what was a historic moment. Only a year ago, Euroscepticism had been a strictly top shelf activity limited to a few hardcore fetishists. Now parliament was about to vote in favour of something most MPs know to be a bad idea. Not that the vote had ever been in doubt, as Jeremy Corbyn had made it a three-line whip for Labour to side with the government. The only real interest was just how many of his MPs would disobey him.

The rate of attrition was higher than expected with Corbyn losing two mem bers of his shadow cabinet on the night in addition to the one who had already resigned along with several other front benchers. Diane Abbott phoned in ill and stayed at home. More resignations may well follow if Labour's amendment for a meaningful final vote on the deal does not get passed next week. The nails weren't just going into Britain's membership of the EU. They were being hammered into Labour's coffin



the Brexit bill:

Tom Brake (Carshalton and

Patricia Gibson (North Ayrshire and Arran); Patrick Grant (Glenrothes); Neil Gray (Airdrie and Shotts); Drew O'Hara (Argyll and Bute):

Paterson (Stirling); Chris West): Tommy Sheppard Thewliss (Glasgow Central) Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow North East); Carol Monagha Sutherland and Easter Ross Angus Robertson (Moray); Alex Salmond (Gordon) Mike Weir (Angus); Pete Wishart (Perth and North Perthshire): Eilidh Whiteford Whitford (Central Ayrshire) Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh

Richard Arkless (Dumfries and Galloway) · Hannah Bardell (Linlithgow and East Falkirk) Martin Docherty-Hughes (West Dunbartons Stuart Blair Donaldson Kincardine): Ronnie Cowar (Inverclyde); Deidre Brock (Edinburgh North and Leith); Alan Brown Mhairi Black (Paisley and

Blackford (Ross, Skye and

ınder-Lyme); Vicky Foxcrof (Lewisham, Deptford): Mike Gapes (Labour Co-op Ilford Nottingham South); Helen South and Shoreditch: Pete Kyle (Hove); David Lammy Maskell (Labour Co-op York Central); Kerry McCarthy (Bristol East): Catherine

McKinnell (Newcastle upon

Doughty (Labour Co-op Liz Saville Roberts (Dwyfor